



KPT 1092
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Stephen William Colley et al. Art Unit 1624
Serial No. 09/806,184
Filed June 5, 2001
Confirmation No. 5402
For PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ETHYL ACETATE
Examiner Zachary C. Tucker
Allowed July 2, 2004

September 8, 2004

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed July 2, 2004, please enter the following remarks.

At the top of page 4 of the comments accompanying the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner states that "claim 1 now requires that the intermediate reaction product mixture comprising hydrogen and liquefiable products comprising the majority of the ethyl acetate produced in step a) be selectively hydrogenated as recovered from the ethyl acetate production zone."

Applicants wish to point out that such a limitation is not found in claim 1 as allowed. More accurately, step (c) of claim 1 requires "passing at least a portion of the liquefiable products of the intermediate reaction product mixture as recovered from the ethyl acetate production zone to a selective hydrogenation zone . . ." That is, step (c) does not require that the entire intermediate reaction product mixture as recovered from the ethyl acetate production zone and including hydrogen be subjected to selective hydrogenation. Step (c) only requires that at least a portion of the liquefiable products of the intermediate reaction product mixture as recovered from the

ethyl acetate production zone be passed to the selective hydrogenation zone, with or without any hydrogen that may be present in the intermediate reaction product mixture.

Nevertheless, the process as defined in allowed claim 1 is submitted as clearly patentable over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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